

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title at line 5, please insert the following heading and paragraph
--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is a U.S. National stage of application No. PCT/JP2004/002106, filed on February 24, 2004. Priority is claimed on that application and on the following application:

Country: Japan, Application No. 2003-122503, Filed: April 25, 2003

The PCT International application was published in the Japanese language.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The light spot 16a is a spot of the zero-th order light of the diffractive optical element 3b and is received by the light-receiving portions 15a through 15d. The light spot 16d is a spot of the plus first order diffracted light of the diffractive optical element 3b and is received by the light-receiving portions 15e through 15h. The light spot 16e is a spot of the minus first order diffracted light of the diffractive optical element 3b and is received by the light-receiving portions 15i through 15l. Because of an ~~action~~ effect of the cylindrical lens 8 and the lens 9, the intensity distribution in the light spot in the tangential direction and that in the radial direction are interchanged.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Hereinafter, an embodiment of the present invention will be specifically described with reference to the accompanying drawings. Fig. 1 is a block diagram of an optical information recording or reproducing apparatus according to the present embodiment, and Fig. 2 is a plan view of a diffractive optical element shown in Fig. 1. The optical information recording or reproducing apparatus of the present embodiment is a DVD (Digital Versatile Disc) drive, for example. As shown in Fig. 1, an optical head device 31 is incorporated into the optical information recording or reproducing apparatus of this embodiment. In the optical head device

31, a semiconductor laser 1 is provided, and along a traveling path of laser light emitted from this semiconductor laser 1, a collimator lens 2 for collimating the laser light emitted from the semiconductor laser 1, a diffractive optical element 3a for diffracting light incident thereon, a polarization beam splitter 4 for transmitting P-polarized light and reflecting S-polarized light toward a predetermined direction, a quarter-wave plate 5 for, when linearly polarized light beams that vibrate in directions perpendicular to each other are incident thereon, providing a phase difference of a $1/4$ wavelength to those linearly polarized light beams, and an objective lens 6 for converging collimated light incident thereon are provided in that order. A disc 7 that is an exemplary optical recording medium is arranged at a focus of the objective lens 6. Please note that a direction perpendicular to the sheet of Fig. 1 [[5]] is a tangential direction at a position on the disc 7 that is irradiated with laser light, while a vertical direction in the same drawing is a radial direction at the position on the disc 7 irradiated with the laser light.